III. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An application operable on a computer adapted to communicate using at least an IPX/SPX protocol, said application comprising:

means for accessing a table for storing a plurality of IPX/SPX network segment addresses and the number of hops each segment is from the computer accessing said table;

IPX/SPX Routing Information Protocol (RIP) request packet sending means adapted to transmit an RIP request packet across an IPX/SPX network;

IPX/SPX Routing Information Protocol (RIP) response packet receiving means adapted to receive RIP response packets in response to the RIP request packet from within a pre-determined pre-defined number of network hops and to store the network segment addresses and the number of hops each segment is from the computer contained in said RIP response packets in said table;

IPX/SPX broadcast means responsive to an application request to transmit an application defined packet to network segments within a pre-determined pre-defined number of hops stored in said table.

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2. (Original) An application according to claim 1 wherein said application is a multi-platform Internet browser adapted to communicate using a TCP/IP protocol and further comprising:

means, responsive to a domain name server (DNS) response indicating failure to locate a web server corresponding to a uniform resource locator (URL), for causing said IPX/SPX broadcast means to transmit a name request for an IPX/SPX server providing a service corresponding to said URL; and

means, responsive to receipt of a response to said name request containing an IPX/SPX address of an IPX/SPX server, for relaying said address to said application enabling peer-to-peer communication between said application and said IPX/SPX server.

3. (Original) An application according to claim 2 wherein said IPX/SPX Routing Information Protocol (RIP) request packet sending means is responsive to a domain name server (DNS) response indicating failure to locate a web server corresponding to a uniform resource locator (URL), to transmit said RIP request packet across an IPX/SPX network.

4. (Original) An application according to claim 2 wherein said IPX/SPX Routing Information Protocol (RIP) request packet sending means is adapted to periodically transmit said RIP request packet across an IPX/SPX network.

5. (Original) An application according to claim 1 comprising:

means for causing said IPX/SPX broadcast means to transmit a name request for an IPX/SPX server providing a service; and

means, responsive to receipt of a response to said name request containing an IPX/SPX address of an IPX/SPX server, for relaying said address to said application enabling connection oriented peer-to-peer communication between said application and said IPX/SPX server.

6. (Original) An application as claimed in claim 5 wherein said application is adapted to communicate using a TCP/IP protocol and further comprising:

means, responsive to no reply being received for said name request, for transmitting a TCP/IP name request for a TCP/IP server providing said service.

7. (Original) An application as claimed in claim 1 wherein said computer is a multi-platform router also adapted to communicate using a TCP/IP protocol, said router comprising:

means, responsive to a domain name server (DNS) response for a client indicating failure to locate a web server corresponding to a uniform resource locator (URL) required at said client, for causing said IPX/SPX broadcast means to transmit a name request for an IPX/SPX server providing a service corresponding to said URL; and

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means, responsive to receipt of a response to said name request containing an IPX/SPX address of an IPX/SPX server, for relaying said address to said client enabling peer-to-peer communication between said client and said IPX/SPX server.

8. (Original) An application as claimed in claim 1 wherein said computer is a multi-platform router also adapted to communicate using a TCP/IP protocol, said router comprising:

means, responsive to a domain name server (DNS) request from a client, for causing said IPX/SPX broadcast means to transmit a name request for an IPX/SPX server providing a service corresponding to said URL; and

means, responsive to receipt of a response to said name request containing an IPX/SPX address of an IPX/SPX server, for relaying said address to said client enabling peer-to-peer communication between said client and said IPX/SPX server.

9. (Original) A multi-platform application as claimed in claim 1 wherein said computer is a server.

10. (Original) A computer program product comprising computer program code stored on a computer readable storage medium for, when executed on a computing device, communicating using at least an IPX/SPX protocol, the program code comprising the application of claim 1.

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11. (Currently Amended) In a computer connected to a network, a method for communicating using at least an IPX/SPX protocol, comprising the steps of:

transmitting a Routing Information Protocol (RIP) request packet across an IPX/SPX network;

receiving one or more RIP response packets in response to the RIP request packet from within a pre-determined pre-defined number of network hops;

storing in a table a plurality of IPX/SPX network segment addresses and the number of hops each segment is from the computer accessing said table contained in said RIP response packets; and

responsive to an application request, transmitting an application defined packet to network segments within a pre-determined pre-defined number of hops stored in said table.

12. (New) A system for simulating a TCP/IP environment in an IPX/SPX network, the system comprising:

a request sender for sending an IPX/SPX Routing Information Protocol (RIP) request packet to IPX subnets connected within a specified number of hops;

a responses collector for receiving responses to the RIP request packet from the IPX subnets, each response having a response IPX NetNumber and a response number of hops; and

a responses filter for filtering the responses to remove responses in which the response number of hops is greater than the specified number of hops to produce a set of network

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numbers,

wherein the set of network numbers may be used to send an IPX/SPX packet to a subnet included within the set of network numbers.

13. (New) The system of claim 12, wherein the responses filter further stores the set of network numbers in a table.

14. (New) The system of claim 13, wherein the table of network numbers may be accessed to locate a server located on an IPX/SPX network in the case of a failure to locate a corresponding TCP/IP address for a web server.

15. (New) The system of claim 12, further comprising an IPX/SPX broadcast module for broadcasting the IPX/SPX packet to a selected subnet.

16. (New) The system of claim 15, wherein the IPX/SPX broadcast module uses a broadcast number of hops to indicate the selected subnet.

17. (New) The system of claim 12, wherein the request sender sends the IPX/SPX Routing Information Packet in response to the sending of the IPX/SPX packet having a sending number of hops that is greater than the specified number of hops.

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18. (New) The system of claim 12, wherein the request sender sends the IPX/SPX Routing

Information Packet in response to a DNS response indicating a failure to locate a TCP/IP address

for a requested web server.

19. (New) The system of claim 12, wherein the request sender periodically sends the IPX/SPX

Routing Information Packet according to a pre-defined schedule.